

MARY W. KEEFFE.

MARCH 24, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ANDREWS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 905.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 905) granting a pension to Mary W. Keefe, having examined the same, adopt as their own the Senate report, and recommend the passage of the bill:

[Senate Report No. 139, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 905) granting a pension to Mary W. Keefe, have examined the same, and report:

The claimant is the widow of Joseph Keefe, late a captain in the United States Army, who died in Boise City, Idaho, December 4, 1891, where his widow now resides. According to the record of the soldier's military career, as furnished by the War Department, he enlisted as a private December 5, 1853, and served as such until October 30, 1862. He was appointed brevet second lieutenant, Second Artillery, October 22, 1862; second lieutenant, Fifth Artillery, October 22, 1862; first lieutenant, Fifth Artillery, July 28, 1866; transferred to Fourth Infantry, May 22, 1875; captain, Fourth Infantry, February 4, 1882; brevet first lieutenant, November 29, 1863, "for gallant and meritorious services during the defense of Fort Sanders, Tenn., and captain, September 23, 1864, for gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Fishers Hill, Virginia." He participated actively in nineteen battles during the late war.

Since the close of the war of the rebellion Captain Keefe served in the various departments of the Army and in different parts of the United States until his death at the time above indicated, being in actual service thirty-eight years. At the time of his death he was without property, excepting his household goods, his pay being only sufficient to meet living expenses. He left a widow with six children, the two oldest having died since the death of their father, and as they contributed largely to the support of their mother and her smaller children, their death has left them in needy circumstances, and the claimant's only income now is a pension of \$20 per month, and \$2 per month for one of the younger children, which falls far short of being sufficient for a comfortable support and the maintenance of those dependent upon her.

The long, active, efficient, and uninterrupted service of the soldier should, in the opinion of your committee, be taken into consideration, which, together with the narrow circumstances of his widow and the dependent members of her family, entitle her to the relief provided in this bill, and, therefore, its passage is recommended.